

# MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(4)

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**TO:** Honorable Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners


**DATE:** April 16, 2013

**FROM:** R. A. Cuevas, Jr.  
County Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Resolution urging the Florida  
Legislature to enact SB 526,  
HB 387, or similar legislation  
revising student eligibility  
requirements for receipt of a  
Florida Medallion Scholars  
Award with respect to national  
test scores

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The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan.

  
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R. A. Cuevas, Jr.  
County Attorney

RAC/smm



# MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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and Members, Board of County Commissioners

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Please note any items checked.

- ☐ "3-Day Rule" for committees applicable if raised
- ☐ 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
- ☐ 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
- ☐ Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
- ☐ Budget required
- ☐ Statement of fiscal impact required
- ☒ Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Mayor's report for public hearing
- ☐ No committee review
- ☐ Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's \_\_\_\_, 3/5's \_\_\_\_, unanimous \_\_\_\_ ) to approve
- ☐ Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Mayor  
Veto \_\_\_\_\_  
Override \_\_\_\_\_

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(4)  
4-16-13

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO ENACT SB 526, HB 387, OR SIMILAR LEGISLATION REVISING STUDENT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR RECEIPT OF A FLORIDA MEDALLION SCHOLARS AWARD WITH RESPECT TO NATIONAL TEST SCORES; URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE, GOVERNOR, AND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO EVALUATE THE POTENTIAL ADVERSE IMPACT ON LOW INCOME AND MINORITY STUDENTS OF INCREASING THE MINIMUM NATIONAL TEST SCORES REQUIRED TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR RECEIPT OF A FLORIDA MEDALLION SCHOLARS AWARD; URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO GIVE GREATER CONSIDERATION TO HIGH SCHOOL GRADE POINT AVERAGE AS A MEANS OF INCREASING STUDENT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR RECEIPT OF A FLORIDA MEDALLION SCHOLARS AWARD

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Medallion Scholars Award is one of three scholarship awards available under the Florida Bright Futures Program; and

**WHEREAS**, for high school students graduating in the 2013-2014 academic year and thereafter, the minimum national test scores required to be eligible for receipt of the Florida Medallion Scholars Award are set to increase significantly: from 22 to 26 on the ACT, and from 1020 to 1170 on the SAT; and

**WHEREAS**, research has shown that as a result of the new minimum national test score requirements, the total number of scholarship recipients in Florida will decrease by about 50 percent, but that the number of Hispanic recipients will decrease by more than 60 percent, and the number of African-American recipients will decrease by more than 75 percent; and

**WHEREAS**, research has additionally shown that as a result of the new minimum national test score requirements, the number of scholarship recipients in Miami-Dade County will decrease by almost 64 percent, more than any other county in the state; and

**WHEREAS**, research has additionally shown that only 40 percent of low income students who currently qualify for the Florida Medallion Scholars Award would receive the award under the new minimum national test score requirements, compared with 50 percent of middle-class students and 60 percent of wealthy students; and

**WHEREAS**, since its inception in 1997, the Florida Bright Futures Program has been instrumental in encouraging student achievement and making college more affordable for the middle and lower-middle class; and

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Bright Futures scholarship awards are funded by the state lottery games, which are more likely to be played by lower income Floridians and minorities; and

**WHEREAS**, the recipients of the Florida Bright Futures scholarship awards, even under the current minimum test score requirements, are more likely to be those students in upper-income, white households; and

**WHEREAS**, college tuition in Florida has more than doubled in the past decade, and student loan debts continue to increase; and

**WHEREAS**, research has shown that financial aid to needy students can significantly boost college participation and graduation rates, while financial aid to students from affluent families does not have the same impact; and

**WHEREAS**, the new minimum national test score requirements should not be implemented until their potential adverse impact on low income students and minorities is more fully evaluated; and

**WHEREAS**, a student's high school grade point average should be given greater consideration as a means of increasing the requirements for student eligibility for receipt of a Florida Medallion Scholars Award; and

**WHEREAS**, companion Senate and House bills have been filed for consideration during the 2013 session of the Florida Legislature, SB 526 by Senator Geraldine F. “Geri” Thompson (D-Orlando), and HB 387 by Representative Ricardo Rangel (D-Kissimmee) and Representative Daphne D. Campbell (D-Miami Shores), revising the student eligibility requirements for receipt of a Florida Medallion Scholars Award with respect to national test scores; and

**WHEREAS**, the enactment of SB 526, HB 387, or similar legislation will prevent the new minimum national test score requirements from taking effect; and

**WHEREAS**, this Board would like to express its support for SB 526, HB 387, or similar legislation revising the student eligibility requirements for receipt of a Florida Medallion Scholars Award with respect to national test scores,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA**, that this Board:

**Section 1.** Urges the Florida Legislature to enact SB 526, HB 387, or similar legislation revising the student eligibility requirements for receipt of a Florida Medallion Scholars Award with respect to national test scores.

**Section 2.** Further urges the Florida Legislature, Governor, and State Board of Education to evaluate the potential adverse impact on low income and minority students of increasing the minimum national test scores required to be eligible for receipt of a Florida Medallion Scholars Award.

**Section 3.** Further urges the Florida Legislature to give greater consideration to high school grade point average as a means of increasing the student eligibility requirements for receipt of a Florida Medallion Scholars Award.

**Section 4.** Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Governor, Senate President, House Speaker, the Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade State Legislative Delegation, the Chairperson and Members of the State Board of Education, and Florida's Education Commissioner.

**Section 5.** Authorizes and directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate for the passage of the legislation set forth in Section 1 above, and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2013 State Legislative Package to include this item and to include this item in the 2014 State Legislative Package when it is presented to the Board.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan. It was offered by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ and upon being put to a vote, vote was as follows:

Rebeca Sosa, Chairwoman

Lynda Bell, Vice Chair

Bruno A. Barreiro

Jose "Pepe" Diaz

Sally A. Heyman

Jean Monestime

Sen. Javier D. Souto

Juan C. Zapata

Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.

Audrey M. Edmonson

Barbara J. Jordan

Dennis C. Moss

Xavier L. Suarez

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 16<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2013. This resolution shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
BY ITS BOARD OF  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as  
to form and legal sufficiency.

MJM

Michael J. Mastrucci